

PROGRAM IN EUROPEAN CULTURAL STUDIES

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Coefficients of Disaster

What work do numbers perform in literary accounts of destruction? And what might writers teach us about statistics?

This lecture puts in conversation recent work by W.G. Sebald and accounts from the turn of the nineteenth century, when statistics rose in prominence, to resituate the role of numbers in debates about moral feeling, sympathy and ethical response.

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4:30

010 East Pyne

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Free and open to the public

"The View at Malton," from "The Great Floods in Yorkshire"
The Illustrated London News, 9 February 1867

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